UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/49/450
28 September 1994

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-ninth session
Agenda item 21

COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES

Report of the Secretary-General

CONTENTS

		Paragraphs	Page
I.	INTRODUCTION	1	3
II.	IMPLEMENTATION OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 47/11	2 - 83	3
	A. Joint activities	2 - 4	3
	B. Consultations and exchange of information	5 - 9	3
	C. Information received from the United Nations system	10 - 61	4
	1. United Nations Secretariat	11 - 14	4
	2. United Nations Development Programme	15 - 19	5
	3. United Nations Population Fund	20 - 22	5
	4. United Nations University	23	6
	5. World Food Programme	24 - 30	6
	6. Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean	31 - 37	7
	7. United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)	38 - 39	8

CONTENTS (continued)

		Paragraphs	Page
8.	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	40 - 42	8
9.	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization	43 - 45	8
10.	International Civil Aviation Organization	46 - 47	9
11.	World Health Organization	48 - 60	9
12.	International Monetary Fund	61	11
D.	Second general meeting between representatives of the United Nations system and of the Organization of American States	62 - 72	11
E.	Sectoral meeting on natural disasters management in the Americas	73 - 83	17

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The present report has been prepared pursuant to paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution 47/11 of 29 October 1992, on cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of American States (OAS), and outlines the measures taken to implement the resolution.

II. IMPLEMENTATION OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 47/11

A. Joint activities

2. Following the close collaboration by the two organizations in the establishment of the International Support and Verification Commission, their most important joint activity to date concerns the situation in Haiti. By its resolution 47/20 A of 24 November 1992, the General Assembly, among other things, requested the Secretary-General to take the necessary measures in order to assist, in cooperation with the Organization of American States, in the solution to the Haitian crisis. In implementation of that resolution, the Secretary-General appointed Mr. Dante Caputo as his Special Envoy for Haiti. Soon afterwards the Secretary-General of OAS also appointed Mr. Caputo as his Special Envoy. By its resolution 47/20 B of 20 April 1993, the General Assembly approved the recommendation of the Secretary-General that the United Nations participate jointly with OAS in the International Civilian Mission to Haiti. The mandate of the Mission was extended by resolution 48/27 B of 8 July 1994. The Mission has been a pioneer instance of inter-organizational cooperation.

3. In a related development, a Joint Working Group on the United Nations/OAS International Civilian Mission to Haiti was established in February 1993. The United Nations Secretariat representation was chaired by the Director of the Americas Division of the Department of Political Affairs. Membership of the Joint Working Group included officials from the Department of Legal Affairs, the Department of Peace-keeping Operations and the Department of Administration and Management of the United Nations Secretariat, and officials of the General Secretariat of OAS. The purpose of the Joint Working Group was to coordinate all the operational activities of the Mission. In 1994, the United Nations chairmanship of the Joint Working Group was reassigned to the Department of Peace-keeping Operations.

4. As regards the humanitarian aspects of the Haiti crisis, a Coordinating committee was established in March 1993, under the joint chairmanship of the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and the Assistant Secretary-General of OAS, to manage the humanitarian plan of action for Haiti.

B. Consultations and exchange of information

5. During the period under review, the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Secretary-General of OAS remained in contact during their respective visits to Washington, D.C., and New York. Representatives of the two

organizations also continued their cooperation on preventive diplomacy, human rights and humanitarian affairs, as well as in economic and social matters.

6. At the invitation of OAS, the United Nations was represented, as an observer, at the twenty-third and twenty-fourth regular sessions of the OAS General Assembly, held at Managua and at Belem, Brazil, in June 1993 and June 1994 respectively.

7. Pursuant to the recommendation contained in General Assembly resolution 47/11, the second general meeting between representatives of the United Nations system and of the Organization of American States was held at OAS headquarters in Washington, D.C., on 3 and 4 May 1993, and a sectoral meeting on natural disasters management in the Americas was held in Barbados on 28 and 29 April 1994 (see sects. D and E below).

8. OAS continued to participate in the Support Committee and the Policies and Projects Committee of the Special Plan of Economic Cooperation for Central America, which was established by the General Assembly in 1988 (resolution 42/231).

9. Consultations between representatives of the two organizations on the signing of an agreement of cooperation are scheduled to reopen under the new Secretary-General of OAS, who took office on 15 September 1994.

C. Information received from the United Nations system

10. In response to a request dated 22 June 1994 from the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, on behalf of the Secretary-General, the heads of organizations, programmes and offices of the United Nations system supplied the information summarized below.

1. United Nations Secretariat

Department of Public Information

11. In cooperation with the General Secretariat of OAS, the United Nations Information Centre in Washington, D.C., held a meeting in observation of Human Rights Day, on 10 December 1993, at which the Director for Human Rights and Deputy Director of the International Civilian Mission to Haiti spoke on the human rights situation in Haiti.

Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch

12. The Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs has identified the strengthening of the administration of justice, assistance to Governments in the harmonization of legislation, training, collection of data and preparation of international treaties, as areas of cooperation between the two organizations.

13. The Branch noted that the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, at all three of its sessions, accorded top priority to transnational organized and economic crime, including the laundering and use of the proceeds of crime. Among the activities organized by the Branch, the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission of OAS participated in the International Conference on Laundering and Controlling Proceeds of Crime: a Global Approach, held at Courmayeur, Italy, from 17 to 21 June 1994.

14. The Branch proposed that joint activities could be planned and undertaken in the use of criminal law for the protection of the environment and recommended the establishment of a joint United Nations/OAS working group to study additional joint activities and coordination.

2. United Nations Development Programme

15. At the national level, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) country offices are pursuing a number of initiatives that involve, to varying degrees, collaboration between OAS and the operational system of the United Nations. These activities are summarized below.

16. In Paraguay, UNDP is supporting the formulation of a project involving OAS technical expertise, financed by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), for activities related to the modernization of the Parliament and the civil registry. The UNDP country office has offered to provide additional technical assistance for the implementation of the project and, if requested, it is willing to administer the IDB resources to be provided to the Government for this initiative.

17. In Bolivia, OAS carried out a study sponsored by UNDP on the use of solar energy in rural areas. In addition, OAS and the Bolivia Military School of Engineers organized in November 1993 a regional conference on South American camelids, at La Paz, where participants from Argentina, Bolivia, Chile and Peru discussed scientific and organizational aspects of camelid production.

18. In a number of countries, OAS participates in the security plan which UNDP implements on behalf of the United Nations operational system for international personnel.

19. For further cooperation, UNDP proposed that key areas for greater collaboration between UNDP and OAS could include governance, poverty, environment and trade. UNDP sees the need for a strengthened partnership in these areas with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the Inter-American Development Bank and OAS.

3. United Nations Population Fund

20. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) collaborates actively with OAS, at both headquarters and field levels. Since 1990, UNFPA has been represented at OAS General Assembly meetings.

21. In Haiti, UNFPA has been coordinating its activities with those of OAS during the current period of political turmoil leading to the suspension of relations with the de facto government and the establishment of a humanitarian plan of action. The UNFPA Haiti office has collaborated actively in the setting up of criteria for humanitarian assistance to Haiti, and in elaborating the joint United Nations/OAS consolidated humanitarian plan of action launched on 25 March 1993.

22. In the context of the consolidated humanitarian plan of action for Haiti, UNFPA is co-funding one project executed by the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation in Agriculture (IICA) to assist rural women.

4. United Nations University

23. The United Nations University (UNU) has an agreement of cooperation with OAS, particularly in the area of biotechnology for postgraduate training, scientific exchanges and fellowships, and joint organization of seminars, workshops and other meetings, academic and professional assistance concerning project development, and joint preparation and distribution of publications. As a result, some 389 young scholars from the OAS region have been trained within the UNU Programme for Biotechnology in Latin America and the Caribbean at Caracas.

5. World Food Programme

24. The World Food Programme (WFP) cooperates with OAS on an informal basis. WFP has a portfolio of 53 ongoing projects in 24 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, with a total value of approximately $558 million.

25. In the review period WFP collaborated with IICA in the execution of agricultural projects in the region and with the OAS General Secretariat in training courses on food, security and human resources development.

26. In Grenada, OAS provided training and equipment for a WFP-assisted project for human resources development. Similarly, WFP assisted OAS in organizing a three-month training course in Mexico for high-level Government officials from throughout Latin America.

27. In Ecuador, WFP participated in training on food security and Andean agricultural integration organized by the Junta del Acuerdo de Cartagena, an OAS affiliate.

28. A project in Nicaragua for the socio-economic rehabilitation of the war-affected population distributed food rations in a food-for-work scheme. It also assisted in the construction of 400 houses, 16 schools and 11 health centres whose financing was assumed by the International Support and Verification Commission.

29. In Guyana, WFP approached the newly-opened OAS office to explore cooperation in monitoring and evaluation of ongoing projects.

30. In Haiti, WFP is ready to assist in an emergency operation for Haitian Returnees from the Dominican Republic and Guantanamo Bay, jointly assessed and recommended by OAS and WFP.

6. Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

31. The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) has maintained and strengthened its working relations and contacts with OAS during the period under review.

32. OAS and ECLAC officials continued to participate in each others' meetings. Collaboration has been mainly in the areas of social policies and statistics.

33. ECLAC maintains with OAS a Joint Programme on Social Policies for Latin America and the Caribbean, for the preparation of methodologies for evaluating social projects from a cost-benefit perspective. The Programme includes training activities in the area of social project formulation and evaluation.

34. In the field of statistics, the General Secretariat of OAS and ECLAC signed an agreement on coordination in statistical matters, during the fourteenth meeting of the Permanent Executive Committee of the Inter-American Statistical Conference at OAS headquarters on 7 and 8 October 1993. The first joint OAS/ECLAC meeting on statistical matters was scheduled for September 1994, at ECLAC headquarters.

35. In the same month an agreement covering two years was also signed between the General Secretariat of OAS and ECLAC for collaboration with the member States in their efforts to improve the living standards of their populations. In addition, technical assistance, training and research are being carried out jointly by the two organizations in the formulation and evaluation of social policies, programmes and projects to combat poverty and mitigate its effects.

36. In the field of natural resources and energy, ECLAC participated at the Inter-American Seminar-Workshop on Integrated Management of Hydrographic Basins, organized by the Inter-American Programme of OAS and the Inter-American Centre for the Integrated Development of Water and Lands and the Central Water Office of the Ministry of Public Works of Chile (Valparaíso, Chile, August 1993).

37. Collaboration also exists between the Latin American Demographic Centre and the Inter-American Statistical Training Centre. ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean analyses issues of special relevance to the economic and social development of the countries members of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee. ECLAC undertook technical assistance missions and participated in a number of OAS meetings on coordination, environmental health and tourism.

7. United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)

38. Contacts at the technical level between Habitat project personnel and the offices of OAS in countries in the Latin America and Caribbean region have increased.

39. Joint activities have not yet materialized, but a memorandum of understanding between OAS, Habitat and the UNDP office in Barbados is currently being reviewed which, once approved, will lead to active collaboration in three countries of the eastern Caribbean.

8. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

40. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has been working with OAS to establish a cooperative programme for the improvement of agricultural statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean. The fifteenth meeting of the Permanent Executive Committee of the Inter-American Statistical Conference, held at OAS headquarters on 5 and 6 May 1994, agreed to establish, jointly with FAO and IICA, a working group on agriculture and livestock statistics.

41. At the country level, contacts have continued between FAO representatives and the directors of national OAS offices.

42. During 1993 and 1994 FAO participated in several meetings organized by OAS and jointly with the United Nations, including the second general meeting of the two organizations; the twenty-third regular session of the OAS General Assembly, held at Managua from 7 to 11 June 1993, and the sectoral meeting on natural disasters management in the Americas.

9. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

43. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) continues to be represented by an observer at the annual meetings of OAS. Relations are also maintained with certain specialized bodies of OAS such as the Inter-American Economic and Social Council, the Inter-American Children's Institute, the Inter-American Commission of Women and, in particular, the Inter-American Council for Education, Science and Culture (CIECC), the counterpart of UNESCO in OAS. It is in the framework of its cooperation with CIECC, for example, that UNESCO, through its Regional Office for Science and Technology at Montevideo, lends its support to the Common Market for Scientific and Technological Knowledge.

44. At its fifteenth regular meeting, held at Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, from 21 to 23 February 1994, CIECC adopted the Declaration of Cartagena, intended to promote education for democracy to consolidate peace, democracy and human rights in the hemisphere.

45. The UNESCO representative in Haiti maintained close cooperation with United Nations and OAS representatives.

10. International Civil Aviation Organization

46. The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) cooperates with OAS through exchange of documentation and invitations to meetings. OAS is regularly invited to the sessions of the Assembly of ICAO and ICAO attends meetings convened by the Inter-American Telecommunications Conference of OAS which are relevant to the ICAO work programme in the field of aeronautical telecommunications.

47. ICAO was represented at the two recent meetings of members of the secretariats of the United Nations system and OAS, in 1991 and in 1993, and provided information on the work of ICAO in areas of common interest, notably technical cooperation, drug abuse control, the environment and natural disaster prevention.

11. World Health Organization

48. The Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO) is recognized as a specialized inter-American organization by virtue of an agreement signed with OAS in 1950. It is an organization of both the United Nations system and the inter-American system of States.

49. In 1993 cooperation between the two systems resulted in successful joint activities to assist the countries of the region in addressing common health and development issues. There was continuous coordination of programming. Members of the PAHO/OAS task force collaborated in the following areas: scientific and technological affairs, regional development, and drug abuse prevention and control. These efforts resulted in collaboration in programmes such as the development of criteria for the definition of poverty in the various subregions; environmental health and tourism development; disaster mitigation and prevention programmes; postgraduate training in research and information technology; and analysis of countries to assist in prevention and control of the illicit use of drugs. Other areas of common interest identified by both institutions are environmental pollution, development of human resources, democracy and health, worker's health, and women and health.

50. During the period under review, activities carried out in collaboration with OAS in the area of health and tourism, included the Inter-American Conference for the Protection of Food and Tourism, the Inter-American Meeting on Tourism and Development and the Caribbean Conference on Environment Health and Sustainable Tourism Development.

51. As part of the follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held at Rio de Janeiro from 3 to 14 June 1993, OAS has brought together a regional coordination group with the objective of joining efforts to support Governments in the implementation of the commitments under Agenda 21.

52. PAHO, OAS and United Nations organizations collaborate in a joint appeal to the international community to mobilize resources for basic health and other humanitarian assistance to Haiti. PAHO coordinates the provision of humanitarian health assistance and is responsible for the distribution of gasoline for all humanitarian assistance in Haiti.

53. In accordance with the resolution adopted by the General Assembly of OAS on the legal situation of refugees, returnees and displaced persons in the American hemisphere (AG/RES.1170), PAHO/WHO was the associated agency through which approximately one tenth of the financial resources were channelled for health activities within the Development Programme for Displaced Persons, Refugees and Returnees in Central America.

54. PAHO/OAS collaboration with the Parliaments of the region continued through a series of activities to foster democracy and health in the hemisphere. Legislation was also drafted or proposed in relation to the impact on health of factors such as the use of pesticides and tobacco smoking.

55. In the context of the Year of Workers' Health (1992), inter-institutional cooperation between PAHO, OAS and ILO was intensified.

56. The World Health Organization (WHO)/PAHO provided technical guidance to and collaborated with OAS in the development of a proposal for the examination of expanded services to the disabled; programmes on the mental health of children and adolescents, in collaboration with United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations; and the implementation of the regional programme on drug prevention education.

57. Special joint intercountry meetings on health education in schools were conducted under the auspices of PAHO, OAS, UNICEF, WHO, the Centers for Disease Control and UNESCO; and United Nations and OAS representatives also participated in the eighth Inter-American Meeting at the Ministerial Level on Animal Health.

58. With the Inter-American Commission on Women there has been participation in the meetings of both institutions, in particular with respect to the topic of violence against women. The PAHO programme on women, health and development collaborated in the analysis of the draft Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women, and the development of policies and strategies in the health sector.

59. PAHO participated in the twentieth extraordinary session of the General Assembly of OAS, on inter-American cooperation for development.

60. PAHO and OAS continued to act as regional collaborating institutions for the Disaster Management Training Programme sponsored by UNDP and the Department of Humanitarian Affairs.

12. International Monetary Fund

61. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has maintained contacts with OAS by participating in special conferences and meetings dealing with specific topics relating to groups of countries. The staff of the Fund and the staff of OAS maintain informal contacts related to the economic and financial developments of certain countries of the western hemisphere. During 1993-1994, staff of the Western Hemisphere Department of the Fund attended the twenty-seventh and twenty-eighth annual meetings at the ministerial level of the Inter-American Economic and Social Council, held in Washington, D.C., on 15 and 16 March 1993 and on 21 and 22 April 1994.

D. Second general meeting between representatives of the United Nations system and of the Organization of American States

62. The second general meeting between representatives of the United Nations system and of the Organization of American States was held at OAS headquarters on 3 and 4 May 1993.

63. Representatives of the following Secretariat departments and other United Nations bodies and organizations participated in the meeting: Department of Political Affairs; Department of Public Information; Department of Humanitarian Affairs; Department for Development Support and Management Services; Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean; United Nations International Drug Control Programme; UNDP; United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM); UNFPA; United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF); United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP); Centre for Human Rights; International Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW); World Food Programme (WFP); International Labour Organization (ILO); FAO; UNESCO; WHO; IMF; ICAO; and International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

64. The following offices of the General Secretariat and OAS commissions and organizations participated: Office of the Assistant Secretary-General; Executive Secretariat for Legal Affairs; Executive Secretariat for Economic and Social Affairs; Executive Secretariat for Education, Science and Culture; Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission; Inter-American Commission on Human Rights; Executive Secretariat of the Inter-American Commission of Women; Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture; Pan-American Institute of Geography and History; Inter-American Defense Board; Inter-American Development Bank; Pan-American Health Organization and Pan-American Development Foundation.

65. At its closing session, on 4 May 1994, the general meeting decided to take note of the conclusions and recommendations set out below.

Environment

66. The working group on environment recommended:

(a) Joint activities of OAS and UNEP should continue to be carried out in the framework of the Action Plan for the Environment in Latin America and the Caribbean;

(b) The specific areas of ongoing cooperation should include management of national and multinational watersheds, and forest management in border areas;

(c) Cooperation in relation to the UNEP Environmental Training Network for Latin America and the Caribbean;

(d) Cooperation on indexing of environmental legislation and cooperation between the OAS Secretariat and the Regional Coordinating Unit of the Caribbean Environment Programme, initially in relation to management of marine parks;

(e) Current UNEP/OAS collaborative activities should be expanded to include the implementation of the Regional Interagency Project for Environmental Training and a study of the possibility of developing joint courses on preparation of environmental statistics and indicators of sustainable development;

(f) A joint mission of OAS and UNEP/Habitat to explore the possibility of developing a joint programme related to human settlements;

(g) Cooperation between OAS, UNDP and UNEP in the implementation of Capacity 21 should also be intensified;

(h) The two organizations should exchange information and databases on institutions for scientific research and environmental training, including the possibility of publishing jointly a directory of Latin American and Caribbean institutions and programs in the field of environment;

(i) As lead agencies, UNDP, UNEP and OAS should coordinate the integration of electronic information networks in academic and research institutions through INTERNET/AMBIONET networks, particularly in relation to environment and sustainable development. They should also:

(i) Promote the concept of sustainable development at the national level;

(ii) Develop appropriate educational material for decision makers, in government and private industry;

(iii) Provide scientific data and training, stressing the interdisciplinary approach to problem solving in national specific issues and strengthen the development of environmental education programmes as part of basic, higher, technical and vocational education;

(j) Future cooperation between the United Nations system and the inter-American system should include the subject of environmental health;

(k) The two systems should also work in coordination in the development, use, sharing and dissemination of geographic information systems (GIS) and related spatial data technology in Latin America and the Caribbean. They should form a committee or working group to seek ways to overcome current obstacles to the efficient and coordinated use of GIS technology in the Americas;

(l) The exchange of information and coordination of activities for the development of aquaculture should be continued, particularly between the OAS Subregional Aquaculture Project for the Caribbean and the FAO Aquila II Project;

(m) The two organizations should study the linkages between population, natural resources and environment in specific regions in Latin America;

(n) A formal agreement of cooperation between IFAD and OAS in the area of regional development and environment should be established to include joint special programming missions;

(o) OAS cooperation and coordination of regional activities in coastal zone management with the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea of the United Nations Secretariat, and with the COMAR project of the Division of Marine Sciences of UNESCO should continue;

(p) Sustained dialogue and coordination between the Committee on the Environment of the OAS Permanent Council and the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development, both at the political level and between the respective secretariats, should be established.

Drug abuse control

67. The joint working group on drug abuse control recommended:

(a) Increased collaboration, including specialized agencies as appropriate, in the provision of support to Governments for the elaboration of national drug control master plans;

(b) The development of appropriate mechanisms for assessing and analysing the various aspects of demand reduction programmes, covering especially preventive education and rehabilitation and drawing fully on the technical resources available in the region;

(c) The organization of regular meetings of heads of national demand reduction programmes in order to discuss issues pertaining to their areas of particular concern;

(d) Continued cooperation in the development of uniform statistical systems for the collection, processing and dissemination of drug abuse data in the region;

(e) Sharing experience in the organization of technical meetings in the area of alternative development;

(f) Continued efforts by all partners in the region to promote and facilitate the ratification of international drug control treaties.

Women and development and children and development

68. The joint working group on women and development and children and development recommended:

(a) A relationship between the inter-American system and the United Nations expert groups for monitoring compliance with conventions, including the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women;

(b) United Nations organizations should be encouraged to provide the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights with their general and specific studies on the region, including those on socio-economic development;

(c) With regard to the establishment of mechanisms for joint programme implementation, invitations should be issued by the United Nations and inter-American specialized agencies to attend each others' inter-agency meetings;

(d) Collaboration among or between organizations of both systems should be structured around country programmes or national plans of action, as well as thematic areas;

(e) Where appropriate, joint letters of understanding or agreements of cooperation, as well as general information, should be exchanged between relevant organizations as a basis for longer-term collaboration;

(f) Previous areas of priority related to refugee issues should continue under the general heading of children in difficult circumstances;

(g) The development of legislation information under way in ILO would benefit from cooperation with the Inter-American Children's Institute;

(h) Programmes for children should address drug-related issues, including preventive education and rehabilitation, targeting in particular the growing substance abuse by street children, school drop-outs and other vulnerable groups, including those composed of children used for illegal purposes by drug dealers. Cooperating agencies should include the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, UNICEF, the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission and the Inter-American Children's Institute;

(i) On mental health, including psycho-social development, PAHO and UNICEF should increase their cooperation.

Disaster prevention, mitigation, preparedness and relief

69. The working group on this item recommended:

(a) Incorporating reconstruction programming, development planning, project formulation and appraisal, vulnerability reduction programmes and hazard assessments programmes as a major part of a United Nations/OAS disaster management plan;

(b) Disaster prevention and mitigation projects formulated, funded and implemented by the Department of Humanitarian Affairs and inter-American system members in the Latin America and Caribbean region should continue;

(c) Strengthening cooperation in the Disaster Management Training Programme sponsored by UNDP and the Department of Humanitarian Affairs;

(d) Expanding disaster training to include the considerable assets and capabilities of the inter-American militaries coordinated by the Inter-American Defense Board;

(e) Expanding the PAHO Supply Management Project to include information for hazard mitigation and emergency management, national institutions' assets and UNIENET;

(f) The inclusion of disaster topics at high-level meetings of OAS and the United Nations, greater participation by global and regional financial institutions and greater promotion of disaster reduction activities;

(g) Holding sectoral meetings at least annually on specific disaster-related topics, with participation of member countries of both organizations and appropriate authorities from disaster organizations (see also sect. E below).

Rural development and agriculture

70. The working group on rural development and agriculture recommended:

(a) Integration of women in decision-making and execution in this field;

(b) Providing greater participation and decision-making on the part of the rural population in agricultural development and greater access to modern technology and markets;

(c) Increasing the role of sustainable development in agriculture, the two organizations working jointly on programmes and projects to ensure that activities carried out meet criteria established to incorporate the concept of sustainability in technical cooperation activities on regional, subregional and national programmes;

(d) Providing closer contact with voluntary organizations and non-governmental organizations in agricultural development and in the role of women in agriculture and sustainable development;

(e) Convening coordination meetings to avoid duplication of effort and to strengthen technical cooperation between United Nations organizations in the agricultural field, organizations of OAS and the inter-American system, and private sector and non-governmental organizations;

(f) Increased communication and cooperation in the areas of training, education and technology transfer.

Indian people and development

71. The working group on Indian people and development recommended:

(a) Promoting attention to indigenous development, including rights and social sustainability, in international conferences pursuant to chapter 26 of Agenda 21 adopted at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development;

(b) That ILO ensure that indigenous people's issues would be on the agenda of the World Summit for Social Development, to be held at Copenhagen in March 1995;

(c) Under the voluntary fund for the International Year of the World's Indigenous People, a number of projects proposed directly by indigenous communities should be financed;

(d) The establishment of focal points, within agencies, for the International Year of the World's Indigenous People and the principle of direct participation of indigenous communities in agency projects at all stages, including preparation and evaluation of such projects;

(e) The implementation of recommendations of the regional workshop on indigenous people and health, held at Winnipeg, Canada, from 13 to 18 April 1993, regarding the work of PAHO and other national and international organizations, as well as the joint establishment of guidelines to be followed by multilateral and bilateral organizations when assessing technical assistance projects related to indigenous people;

(f) Cooperation between UNESCO and the Inter-American Indian Institute in the study and revitalization of Latin American Indian languages;

(g) The promotion of education, local communication capabilities, natural preservation and the controlled development of cultural and ecological tourism, in particular the preservation of the Mayan heritage and the development of communities of Mayan origin;

(h) That the level of recognition and protection of indigenous rights should not in any way be lower than, or derogate from, the level of rights contained in the ILO Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention of 1989;

(i) The dissemination of information to support health development and health policy work with indigenous people;

(j) The need to take the drug dimension into account in formulating and implementing support programming for indigenous people, to ensure that such programmes do not promote any increase in drug production, trafficking and abuse;

(k) The establishment of mailing lists of appropriate individuals and organizations to facilitate networking on indigenous people and development, which could identify priority countries for current work, and indicate areas of greater potential for collaboration at the country level.

Identification of new priority areas

72. The meeting recommended the following new priority areas:

(a) Human rights;

(b) Poverty;

(c) Trade;

(d) Health;

(e) Refugee families headed by women;

(f) Global conferences;

(g) Education;

(h) Networks of information and interchange of knowledge.

E. Sectoral meeting on natural disasters management in the Americas

73. The sectoral meeting on natural disasters management in the Americas was held at the office of the Pan-American Health Organization at Bridgetown on 28 and 29 April 1994.

74. The following Secretariat departments and other United Nations bodies and organizations were represented: Department of Political Affairs, Department of Humanitarian Affairs, UNDP, UNIFEM, FAO, UNESCO and PAHO/WHO.

75. The following departments of the General Secretariat and OAS organizations were represented: Office of the Assistant Secretary-General, Executive Secretariat for Economic and Social Affairs, Inter-American Development Bank, Inter-American Defense Board and Pan American Development Foundation.

76. Representatives of the Caribbean Disaster and Emergency Response Agency, the Regional Security System, the Central Emergency Relief Organization and the Barbados Defence Force participated as observers.

77. During its discussions, the meeting took note of the report of PAHO entitled "A world safe from natural disasters", and the report of the Cartagena Regional Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction, and in particular the recommendations contained in the declaration adopted at that Conference.

78. At its third plenary session on 29 April 1994 the sectoral meeting endorsed the conclusions and recommendations outlined below.

Prevention, mitigation, rehabilitation and reconstruction

79. According to a new survey by the Department of Humanitarian Affairs, the Latin American-Caribbean region has been, by global standards, particularly vulnerable to natural disasters, having suffered over the past 30 years almost 40 per cent of all events causing losses in excess of 1 per cent of national GNP, and 23 per cent of world-wide disasters displacing more than 1 per cent of the national population.

80. The working group on this item recommended:

(a) A greater exchange of experiences among countries on specific disaster issues, focusing on cost-effective technologies for hazard prevention;

(b) That the Caribbean workshop for engineers, architects and builders, to be organized by PAHO/WHO by the end of 1994, should identify practical mitigation techniques in hospitals and other public buildings;

(c) Dissemination of information collected by OAS and UNDP to ensure that the Disaster Emergency Response and Management System did not duplicate the OAS-implemented Caribbean Disaster Mitigation Project;

(d) That United Nations and OAS mitigation experts should be made available to the UNDP-sponsored disaster management coordination mechanism, whereby United Nations organizations and donor country representatives could coordinate post-disaster efforts;

(e) Information and methodologies gained under the PAHO Supply Management Project and any other related systems should be made available to organizations of the inter-American system;

(f) Support for documentation centres and additional funding for their further expansion and broader use;

(g) Widespread distribution of the publication entitled "A world safe from natural disasters" prepared for the World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction, which was held at Yokohama, Japan, from 23 to 27 May 1994;

(h) Technical assistance by the United Nations and the inter-American system in the practical implementation of disaster legislation where it exists, as well as increased collaboration on the formulation and administration of building codes based on CUBIC;

(i) Participation by community groups, non-governmental organizations and private sector organizations in the UNDP Partners in Development Programme;

(j) In addition to IDB, organizations involved with capital projects should ensure that they meet acceptable hazard resistance and environmental standards;

(k) Collaboration in providing countries affected by disasters with expertise to include mitigation activities in disaster reconstruction projects;

(l) Greater emphasis on dealing with technological hazards such as those associated with the chemical, industrial and mining sectors; and in that connection, expanded collaboration between OAS and the relevant United Nations bodies, especially UNEP;

(m) In the long term, emphasis should be placed on vulnerability reduction and emergency response to hazards in the energy sector.

Preparedness, response and relief

81. The working group recommended:

(a) The International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction should be utilized as a forum for the promotion of related sciences and technologies;

(b) Disaster reduction in national development planning should be promoted;

(c) Greater community participation should be encouraged and in that connection OAS and the United Nations should collaborate in extending and strengthening existing programmes to meet the need for greater preparedness at the community level, especially among the low income and marginal populations occupying high-risk areas;

(d) The role of non-governmental organizations and private voluntary organizations in disaster preparedness and response should be encouraged, as well as their participation in disaster management;

(e) Sectoral meetings of disaster management agencies should be held semi-annually, alternating between headquarters in Washington, D.C., and New York, for programme review, maintaining momentum and information networking;

(f) The inter-American system should participate actively in the pre- and post-disaster meetings coordinated by UNDP at the national or subregional levels;

(g) Development of a joint OAS/United Nations disaster management plan that sets out policies, assets, capabilities, responsibilities and areas of collaboration;

(h) Dissemination of an upgraded comprehensive register of international, national, governmental, non-governmental and volunteer organizations involved in disaster management within the inter-American system, including their functions, assets, capabilities, responsibilities and details of key personnel. A directory of disaster management terms and titles, with acronyms and abbreviations, should be established and maintained;

(i) Joint sponsorship of technical assessments of the impact, needs and lessons learned in recent disasters in the Americas should be expanded,

presented at sectoral meetings, and widely disseminated to disaster management organizations in the region;

(j) Increased training programmes for managers in disaster prevention, mitigation, preparedness and relief at the regional and national levels; sponsorship of university scholarships and development of a catalogue of available training programmes in disaster management;

(k) Strengthened evaluation of existing disaster information systems to minimize proliferation, maximize the usefulness of existing systems and identify and recommend improvements; in that connection support should be given to initiatives which would improve information sharing among national and regional disaster management organizations;

(l) Establishing an effective, affordable emergency communication network, from local to national to regional centres, throughout the western hemisphere;

(m) Expanded collaboration in hazard assessment and vulnerability reduction programmes at national and regional levels;

(n) Encouraging the incorporation of disaster awareness in school curricula and public information programmes, and support for the preparation and dissemination of multi-media training materials;

(o) Promoting periodic hemispheric and regional conferences, attended by principal international, national, governmental and non-governmental disaster management organizations.

Role of the military

82. Inter-American militaries have significant capabilities and resources which could be applied to disaster preparedness, response and relief. Recognizing the existing capacity of military institutions in the region, it is recommended that the Inter-American Defense Board serve as coordinator of combined inter-American military disaster management activities. It is also recommended that the coordinating function should be undertaken within the mechanism of United Nations/OAS cooperation.

General comments

83. The United Nations has declared the 1990s the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction. The inter-American system fully supports the purpose and scope of this important initiative and seeks increased collaboration with the United Nations to maximize their combined assets and capabilities in the reduction of natural disasters.